GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4023
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
POPULATION DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURE
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population of the country which earns its livelihood from agriculture and related industries;

(b) the percentage of contribution of agriculture based industries as a whole to the economy;

(c) whether the Government are making any extra efforts to promote agro based industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): According to the Population Census − 2001, the agricultural workers consisting ofcultivators and agricultural labourers constitute 58.4 percent of the total workers in the country.

(b): The percentage contribution of the sector consisting of agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fishing and food industries to the Gross Domestic Product in the year 2000-01 was 27.3.

(c) & (d): In order to provide better livelihood the Government through Khadi and VillageIndustries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment GenerationProgramme (REGP) throughout the country, wherein Margin Money is provided for setting up agro and rural industries. As on 31.03.2002, 1,40,481 projects (provisionally) have been sanctioned in the country under the REGP Scheme of the KVIC and 14,42,128 jobs (provisionally) have been created.

In view of the crying need to generate additional employment and the successful experience of the programme so far, it has been decided to continue the programme during the 10th Plan period i.e. upto 31.3.2007, as well . The target set for the 10th Plan is to generate an additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons with a proposed investment of Rs.1250 crore.